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ANNUAL REPORT

DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN

ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Printed by the direction of the
Honourable C. W. Cross, Attorney General



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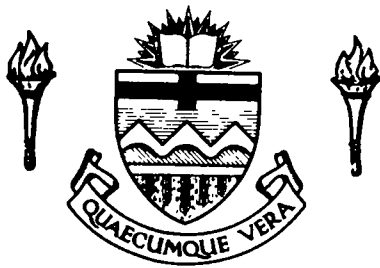
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

NEGLECTED CHILDREN

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

1915



EDMONTON

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EDMONTON, Alberta, March 1st, 1916.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA,
Parliament Buildings.

SIR,—I have the honour, herewith, to submit the Seventh Annual Report of this branch of your Department, working within the provisions of *The Children's Protection Act of Alberta*, *The Juvenile Courts Act of Alberta*, and *The Dominion Delinquents Act*.

In doing so, allow me to express my appreciation of the sympathetic support you have given to this branch.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

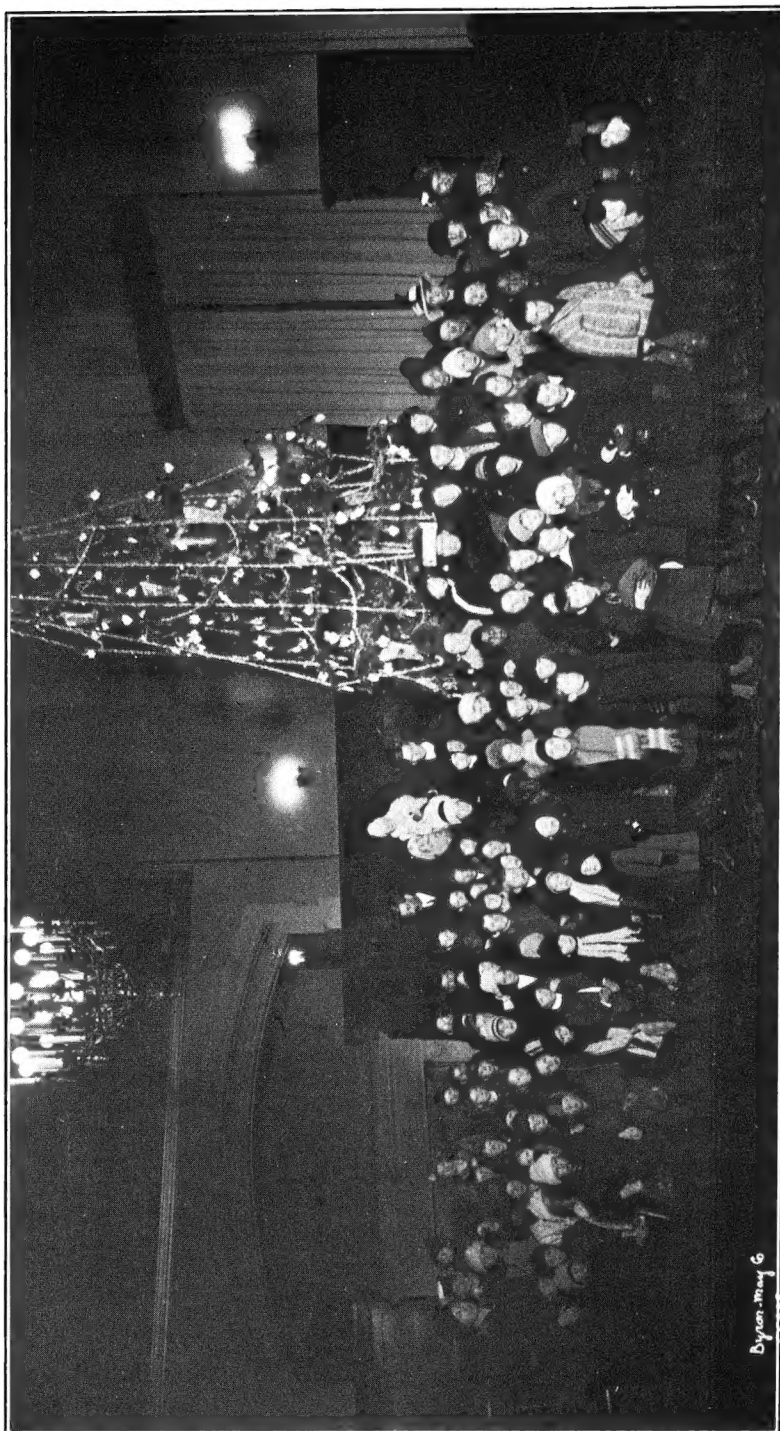
Your obedient servant,

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent.

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Edmonton Shelter Children being entertained at the McDonald Hotel on Christmas afternoon.

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LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The Children's Protection Act of Alberta, introduced by the present Attorney General in 1909, and *The Dominion Juvenile Delinquents Act*, which came into force in this Province in April, 1914, are the legal enactments under which this Department seeks to care for the juvenile dependents and delinquents of Alberta.

The provisions of these two Acts, properly interpreted and rigidly enforced, provide special protection for the boys and girls who are having a hard time of it. The

The Children's Protection Act

Children's Protection Act, by the very broad definition given to a neglected child, makes it possible for the Children's Aid Societies and the Department to deal with every case of cruelty or neglect.

Although this Act has been in force for some years, there seems to be, in many well-informed circles, a serious misapprehension as to the powers that it delegates to the societies organized under the Provincial Statute for the protection of children. For this reason we think it necessary to quote again the definition of a neglected child as given therein:

"Neglected child" shall mean a child who is found begging, receiving alms, thieving in a public place, sleeping at night in the

Definition of Neglected Child

open air, wandering about at late hours, associating or dwelling with a thief, drunkard, or vagrant, or who is incorrigible or cannot be controlled by its parents, or who is employed anywhere between the hours of ten o'clock p.m. of one day, and six o'clock a.m. of the following day (as amended by paragraph 2, Sec. 23, Cap. 2, Statutes of Alberta, 1910), or a child who, by reason of the neglect, drunkenness or other vice of its parents, is growing up without salutary parental control and education, or in circumstances exposing such child to an idle or dissolute life; or who is found in a house of ill-fame, or known to associate with or be in the company of a reputed prostitute; or who is a habitual vagrant; or an orphan and destitute; or deserted by its parents; or whose only parent is undergoing imprisonment for crime; or who by reason of ill-treatment, continual personal injury or grave misconduct of its parents or either of them, is in peril of loss of life, health or morality, or in respect to whom its parents or only parent have or has been convicted of an offence against this Act, or under The Criminal Code; or whose home by reason of neglect, cruelty, or depravity, is an unfit place for such child and "neglected children" shall mean two or more of such children.

From this definition it will be seen that provision is made for the care of practically every case of cruelty or neglect, and the Department is always glad to receive information concerning such

cases as may be brought to the notice of any citizen in the Province. If desired, such information can be treated as confidential.

The spirit of the Act recognizes that in cases of neglect or cruelty, children are more frequently sinned against than sinning, and provides a severe penalty for adults who contribute in any way to the neglect of a child. Clause 18 of the Act reads as follows:

The Spirit of the Act

"Any person who—

"(a) Causes or procures a child to be in any public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms, or of inducing the giving of alms, whether under the pretences of singing, playing, performing, offering anything for sale, or otherwise; or

Contributing to Neglect

"(b) Causes or procures a child to be in any public place for the purpose of singing, playing, or performing for profit or offering anything for sale; or

"(d) Is wilfully guilty of an act or omission producing, promoting, or contributing to a child being or becoming a neglected child, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and on conviction shall incur a penalty not exceeding \$100.00, and in default of payment of the penalty, or, in addition thereto, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year."

Under this clause it would seem possible to bring every delinquent parent or guardian to book. The power given under it has formerly been exercised with too much leniency. More recently, however, the Department has thought it wise to prosecute a greater number of adults. A detailed statement of this part of our work, for the year 1915, will appear on another page of this report.

The Juvenile Delinquents Act now in vogue in the province enables us to deal with serious delinquencies among youths up to the age of 16. The definition of a delinquent child according to this Act is very simple:

The Juvenile Delinquents Act

"Juvenile Delinquent" means any child who violates any provision of The Criminal Code, Chapter 146 of the Revised Statutes, 1906, or of any Dominion or Provincial Statute, or of any by-law or Ordinance of any municipality, for which violation punishment by fine or imprisonment may be awarded; or, who is liable by reason of any other act to be committed to an Industrial School or Juvenile Reformatory under the provisions of any Dominion or Provincial Statute.

The framers of this piece of legislation also recognized the part which adults have to play in the shaping of the plastic lives of the young, and made provision for bringing offenders against youth to justice. Section 29 of the Act reads as follows:

"Any person who knowingly or wilfully encourages, aids, causes, abets or connives at the commission by a child of a delinquency, or who knowingly or wilfully does any act producing, promoting or contributing to a child's being or becoming a juvenile delinquent, whether or not such person is the parent or guardian of the child, or who, being the parent or guardian of the child, and being able to do so, wilfully neglects

Contributing to Delinquency

to do that which would directly tend to prevent a child's being or becoming a juvenile delinquent, or to remove the conditions which render a child a juvenile delinquent, shall be liable on summary conviction before a Juvenile Court or a justice, to a fine not exceeding \$500, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or to both fine and imprisonment."

We have taken space to quote these sections in order that it may be more widely understood that in this Province we have laws that amply protect children, and that it is the duty of good citizens to co-operate with the Department and see that everything is done in individual cases to protect the boy and girl, who may otherwise be treated harshly or driven into a criminal life.

The protected child becomes a contributor to the wealth, morality and good government of the State. The neglected child becomes a burden to the community and a menace to society.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

The Children's Aid Societies may be regarded as the Children's Protection Act set in motion. They agitate for a clean, moral atmosphere for children and prosecute persons who in any way contribute to their neglect or delinquency. Through them the homes of neglected children are investigated in order that very accurate information may be given to the Juvenile Court Commissioner before whom the individual case is brought. They aim "not to destroy parental responsibility but to encourage and enforce it; not to break up the family, but to reform it; not to create paupers, but to promote self-help; not to create criminals, but to turn idle, drunken parents into industrious, sober citizens."

They secure the services of suitable men to act as probation officers, and interest themselves in locating and providing foster homes for homeless children. It is their aim

The Aim of the Society to create a wholesome, uplifting sentiment in society that will make crimes against children impossible, and secure for the youth of the community an opportunity to grow up into useful citizens.

We have to report that during the year 1915, these societies in the larger cities of the province have done excellent work. It has

City Societies Do Good Work been very encouraging to note the number of busy business men, and earnest, devoted women who have been willing to devote both time and energy to this form of service.

A list of the officers elected at the various annual meetings recently held, includes the names of many persons prominent both in society and business life, and augurs well for the future of these organizations.

In the smaller places it has been found more advantageous to work through small committees rather than through large organizations. In some instances two or three

Committees for Smaller Towns persons acting in this capacity have been instrumental in giving to the department information and advice which have proved almost invaluable in assisting us to make wise provision for certain families. The discussion of family troubles by a large committee frequently creates trouble in a small community.

At the present time, an attempt is being made to have similar committees organized in every town in the Province.

An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. More and more the societies are studying the conditions that lead to dependency and delinquency, and are endeavouring by a campaign of education to have these conditions remedied. The societies feel that they can rely upon press and pulpit to co-operate with them in such a worthy enterprise.

INVESTIGATION AND INSPECTION

In the cities of this province, the agents of the Children's Aid Societies not only act as probation officers, but undertake the work of investigation and inspection. A similar service for the outlying districts is performed by the travelling inspectors and Matron employed directly through the Department.

This is a very difficult and delicate task, and can be successfully undertaken only by men and women of tact and experience.

A Delicate Task The work, when vigorously carried out, seriously interferes with the most vicious and degraded classes of the community. It entails the extremely delicate duty of enquiring into the home life of many families. To do this in such a way as to dispel opposition and secure the co-operation, rather than the enmity, of parents, requires no little skill.

Statistics given elsewhere in this report concerning the number of dependents and delinquents who have come before the Juvenile Court, and later have been placed

Cases Settled in foster homes, do not convey any adequate
Out of Court idea of the number of families who have been reported to this Department, and whose cases have been thoroughly investigated and settled by the officers, who were more anxious to right the home conditions than to make a record as far as the cases were concerned. We are of the opinion that the more of these cases that are wisely settled out of Court, the better it will be for both parents and children.

It is easy to be a mere policeman and bring offenders to justice, but it is much more difficult to be a real reformer, and thus make

The Value of a the application of law unnecessary. Child-
Good Home ren's Aid Societies have power to take children from their homes, but it is their ambition to preserve the homes for the children. They

know the value of good homes and the curse of bad homes. They know that the whole social fabric suffers from bad homes, which are as great cancers, eating into the vitals of society. They know also that a good home "is as a well-spring of life to the morals of the people." They are "home-making," and not "home-breaking" institutions. Where one home has been broken up because our workers despaired of reformation, conditions in a dozen homes have been remedied and purified. Many delinquent parents are willing to give up their vice and debauchery when they find that only thus can they regain possession of their children. Confronted with such an alternative, many thoughtless parents have discovered how much they loved their children, and how greatly they needed these little ones in their lives.

Although the Juvenile Court work is done secretly, and with the idea of leaving no stigma or disgrace, the very fact of airing family disputes before a Commissioner, leaves an impression

which it is hard to eradicate. If the wrong can be righted, and conditions remedied by a friendly visit to the home, the subsequent atmosphere is liable to be more congenial.

When it is considered that at the present time we have 2,142 children in foster homes at various points in the province, it will

be seen that the inspection of these, in itself, is a considerable task.

**Inspecting Foster
Homes**

The aim of the Department is to visit these homes at least once a year, until it has been thoroughly established that conditions in them are such as to give the children proper opportunities for life.

During the past year our inspectors have travelled 39,819 miles, and the majority of the homes in which children have been placed have been investigated by our Inspectors and Matrons. In cases where the foster parents are finding it rather difficult to deal with the children, a visit from a representative of the Department often brings the necessary help and counsel. If we are to do justice by our ever growing number of wards, a great deal more time and expense will have to be given to inspection.

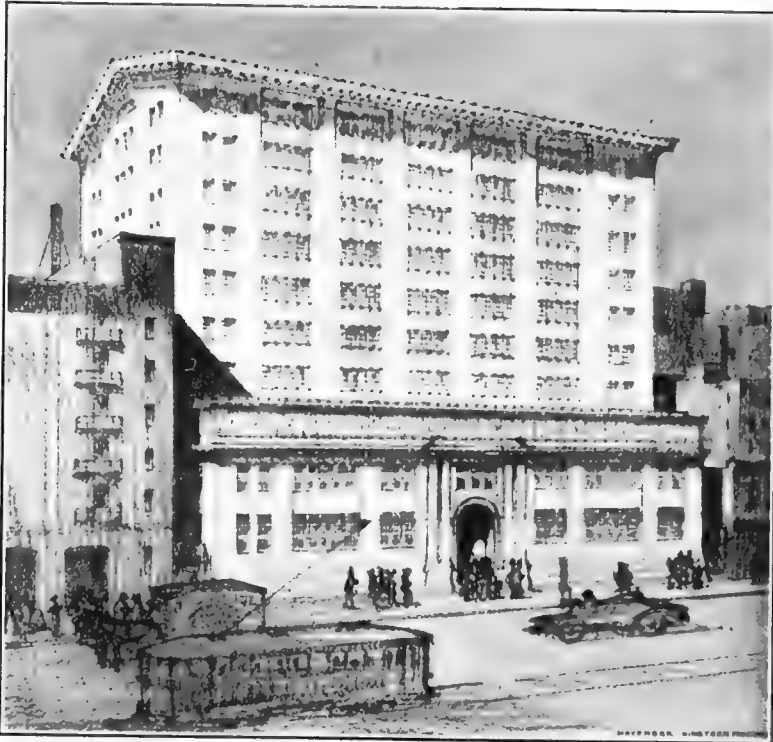
JUVENILE COURTS

Fundamental to the enforcement of the Acts for the protection of children, is the Juvenile Court. This system is in vogue throughout the entire province, and some 80 Commissioners have been appointed. The bulk of the work, however, devolves upon the Commissioners in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

The Court is invariably conducted in a very simple and informal way. It is not so much the function of the Commissioner to adjudicate as to investigate. At the Court

Courts Conducted Informally

there are no brass-buttoned officials, no black gowns, no newspaper reporters, and very seldom is there even a legal light. In every case the parents are notified to appear with their children, and the matter in hand is dealt with in such a way as to impress both parent and child. In a great majority of cases the accused child is sent home with a warning, many are placed on probation, and a few are made wards of the Department, and subsequently placed



The New Juvenile Court Building in Seattle. An example of what up-to-date cities think of the Juvenile Court system.

in foster homes. The aim of the Court is not to punish the wayward child, but to improve his character and surround him with wholesome influences so that he will grow up to be a good citizen, a supporter of law and order.

The Importance which is attached to the work of the Juvenile Court by those who have studied the problem of the delinquent and dependent child, is little understood by the average person. When we consider that in such places as San Francisco and New York they are building elaborate structures to be used solely as Juvenile Courts, we look forward to a time when the sessions of our Court will not be held in basement rooms or stuffy private offices, but in some bright, airy hall.

The day of the child has just dawned, he is yet to occupy the first place in the regard of the community. In the not far distant future we will have in the cities of this Province, buildings which in themselves will impress upon parent and child the dignity and kindliness of justice.

At this point in our report we would like to record our appreciation of the excellent work done by Commissioners of the Juvenile Court. Many of these men have given unstintedly of their time, wisdom and sympathy. We think that special mention should be made of the Commissioners in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, for in these places the majority of the cases are tried. Without the help of such men as His Lordship Bishop Gray, the Rev. Dr. McQueen, and Rev. Father Murphy, of Edmonton, Mr. John McDougall, Mr. T. A. P. Frost, and Mr. F. D. Beveridge, of Calgary, the Rev. Canon McMillan of Lethbridge, and Mr. C. J. Wilson of Medicine Hat, this Department would find it almost impossible to overcome its task.

In this connection, reference should be made of an experiment which is being tried in the City of Calgary at the present time.

The Children's Aid Society there are pioneers in the appointment of ladies to act as Juvenile Court Commissioners, and the splendid services which have been rendered in this connection by Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford, would indicate that the presence of a kindly lady on the bench, especially in cases of delinquent girls, will soon be universally recognized as the right and proper thing.

JUVENILE COURT COMMISSIONERS

Appointed Under The Children's Protection Act.

Town.	Name.
Athabasca	Russel Edgar Bannerman.
Blairmore	James Wm. Gresham.
Bashaw	Alfred J. Whitby.
Brooks	Charles E. Anderson.
Brooks	Leonard D. Nesbit.
Bassano	Robert Sherritt.
Calgary	T. A. P. Frost.
Calgary	John McDougal.
Calgary	F. D. Beveridge.
Calgary	John McAdam Sharpe.
Calgary	Alice Jane Jamieson.
Calgary	Annie Elizabeth Langford.
Coronation	Aremis Towns.
Claresholm	William McNicol.
Cardston	Josiah Austin Hammer.
Coleman	Edmund Disney.
Consort	Charles Henry Noble.
Cowley	A. J. Snyder.
Cowley	D. R. McIvor.
Chauvin	Thomas Armour.
Daysland	David Davidson.
Donalda	Arthur L. Harvey.
Edmonton	H. Allen Gray.
Edmonton	Dr. D. G. McQueen.
Edmonton	Percy Henry Tucker.
Edmonton	Robert Belcher.
Edmonton	Ivor J. E. Daniel.
Edmonton	Rev. Father Murphy.
Fort Saskatchewan	John Paul.
Foremost	John Edward Charters.
Gleichen	James Leigh Laycock.
Grouard	Vermer Maurice.
Grouard	Peter Tomkins.
Hardisty	George Hedley Holmes.
Hardisty	Allen John Nicol McArthur.
Hanna	Charles Schatz Finkbeiner.
High River	Alexander Wm. Hamilton Thompson.
Islay	William Berty Cairns.
Innisfail	John Drought Lauder.
Innisfail	William G. McArthur.
Irricana	Robert J. Fowler.
Lacombe	Edward Montrose Sharpe.
Lacombe	George Hutton.
Lamont	Albert Ernest Archer.
Lethbridge	W. V. McMillan.
Lethbridge	J. D. Higenbotham.
Lousana	Harry George Ancion.
Medicine Hat	O. D. Austin.
Medicine Hat	C. J. Wilson.
Mirror	Horace J. Rymer.
Magrath	Orsin Alpin Wooly.
Manville	Daniel B. McLean.
Macleod	Allen Ban McDonald.

Town.	Name.
Munson	Matthew Turnbull
Nanton	Aaron Jessup.
Olds	Samuel James Craig.
Ponoka	William K. Turner.
Provost	William Hamilton.
Peace River Crossing	George E. McLeod.
Peace River Crossing	James Davidson Jones.
Peace River Crossing	John P. Gaudet.
Red Deer	J. Wallace.
St. Albert	Walter Lewis Viness.
St. Albert	Edmund Poirier.
St. Paul des Metis	Joseph E. Cloutier.
Stony Plain	Murdock McKinley.
Stettler	Harry Theodore Harding
Stettler	John Phillips Grigg.
Strathmore	William Vickery.
Strome	Walter Ernest George Hunter.
Sedgewick	James S. McDonald.
Trochu	Sidney Alexander De Barethy.
Trochu	Frank Bernard.
Viking	James S. Barker.
Vermillion	Peter B. Pilkie.
Vulcan	William Alvin Schenk.
Warner	Albert P. Veale.
Wainwright	J. W. McQueen.
Wainwright	Frank Lush.
Youngstown	James Woodman.

PROBATION

The probation officer has been called "the right arm of the Juvenile Court." In dealing with delinquents, the ideal is to secure their reformation, if possible, without placing upon them the stigma of disgrace, to keep the home together rather than to break it up. For this reason, the great majority of boys who come before the Juvenile Court charged with crimes and found guilty of them, are released on probation, that is, they are placed under the care either of a paid probation officer, or some good volunteer who receives their reports and attempts as best he can to direct their energies into proper channels.

A good probation officer is hard to find, he must know how to be severe without being hard, uncompromising without showing any trace of stubbornness. Soft-heartedness will only breed contempt, it frequently leads the lad to assume that in the event of his doing wrong a second time, he may depend upon the probation officer to throw the mantle of protection around him. Some boys appearing for second offences, assume the air of "we beat the law," and act towards the probation officer as though they regarded him simply as a present help in time of trouble.

The probation officer must know the boy, his parents, his companions, his amusement, and must seek by wise counsel and sympathy to develop the positive goodness which is in him. His exhortation must be "do, do," rather than "don't, don't."

During the year 1915, a Juvenile Court Committee, which was really the Probation Committee, was organized in the City of Calgary under the direction of Mr. J. M. Sharpe. A number of voluntary probation officers, meeting together, undertook to give individual attention to boys who appeared before the Court and were convicted of some delinquency.

The secretary of the committee directed the boy to the man who was to be his "big brother," and the big brother in turn set about to study the conditions under which the boy was living. In all thirty-one cases were entrusted to the committee, and up to the present time not one has proved to be a repeater. Attempts have been made with much success to organize similar committees in other centres.

There is little doubt that with the help of the right kind of volunteers, Children's Aid Societies, especially in the larger cities, could save many a bright lad from entering upon ways of crime.

Experience teaches us that the same energy which is expended in pushing a boy rapidly down grade, will, if properly controlled and directed, push him almost as rapidly up the up-grade to conquering manhood.

The tendency up to the present, however, has been to place too much work upon the paid probation officer. The public little understands the close inspection required, and the amount of time necessary to do justice to each individual case. One officer, in addition to other duties, has to care for a score of boys. His task necessarily becomes difficult, and he finds it impossible to give to any one case proper attention.

In country districts, a great deal of use has been made of the principals of schools, officers of the Royal North-West Mounted Police, and town police officials, and the thanks of the Department are due to many of those who have so willingly co-operated with us in helping to do the best possible for the delinquent children in their respective neighbourhoods.

Probation is the most constructive method of treating the delinquent. It not only punishes and disciplines, but also contributes materially to the welfare of the child. It seeks to diagnose his weakness and deficiencies, then, to strengthen his weaknesses and supply his deficiencies by friendly ministrations and by utilizing the religious, moral, educational and social forces available.

HOME FINDING

A noted social worker in the United States, after inspecting several institutions in which orphans and dependents were being cared for, said recently that he had come to the conclusion that it was the State's duty to furnish one pair of sheltering, mothering arms for every little piece of human driftwood in these institutions.

The Department in this province has, since its inception, acted on the principle that the normal, well-developed child ought to find a place in the home life of the community. A child needs love as flowers need sunshine; he develops normally under normal conditions, and the only normal conditions in which to place a child, is in some good home.

Child Needs

Home Atmosphere



Happy with her Pet.

The Department is now caring for some 2,142 children in foster homes. During the year 1915 five hundred and ninety-four children were placed. Of this number, 254 were returned to their parents.

A great deal of care is exercised in selecting good homes. When an application for a child is received, the Department requires four favourable reports by references given, before it is considered. We find in many neighbourhoods a tendency on the part of residents to speak well of their neighbours, and it is very necessary to scrutinize these reports on application

**Care Taken in
Selecting Homes**



Two Wards who found a good Mother.

very closely. If, upon investigation, there is any suspicion in our minds that the home is not entirely satisfactory, the application is dropped.

In case a child is placed, we require that reports be sent to us at stated intervals, and one of our inspectors visits the home within

the first six months, or at most a year, so that every precaution is taken to insure that the child in its foster home is given an opportunity to make good in life. When foster parents choose to take a helpless infant into their homes, it can generally be conceded that they have no selfish motive. They are willing, either from pure love of the child, or for the good they may do, to shoulder a new responsibility. In most cases these infants are well cared for. Upon some of them love and kindness are lavished as on few children in their own homes.

In cases of older children who may be considered able to pay for their board and clothing by work, rigid inspection is always necessary. During 1915 a few cases where foster parents were making slaves of the children, came to our notice, and in one or two instances wards were cruelly abused. We

**Where Injustice
Creeps In**

have insisted upon having these cases brought before the Court, and almost invariably convictions were secured. In some instances heavy penalties were imposed. Everything possible is done to protect the helpless from the selfish greed of those who would only make use of them for their own advantage.

The history of the "placing-out" system, as far as we have observed it, establishes the fact that environment counts. The occasional appearance of a wayward child in a good home, in spite of all the love and counsel that have been lavished upon it, has produced a race of skeptics concerning the power of environment. They maintain that the original tendency of the twig will persist, in spite of all the bending processes which may be brought to bear upon it. Hundreds of cases, however, which have been dealt with by this Department, where children have been placed in good homes, have resulted in marvellous transformations taking place. He would be a bloodless creature who could witness some of these without emotion.

It is to the credit of the good people of this province that no great difficulty has been met in securing a sufficient number of good homes for the dependent children coming under our charge. There would seem to be little or no need for orphanages or kindred institutions being established in this province for many days to come.

If we could have the defective children now in our shelters placed in proper institutions for their care, we would find it quite easy to place normal well-developed boys and girls in a good home atmosphere.

OUR TEMPORARY HOMES

In operating the "placing-out" system, temporary homes or shelters are an absolute necessity. For this reason the Children's Protection Act provides that in cities or towns of 10,000 population or more, the municipality must build and maintain a shelter. The shelter is, according to the Act, under the control of the Children's Aid Society, so that the public may always be assured that proper care is being taken of the helpless little waifs who find their way into these buildings.



Shelter at Medicine Hat in course of erection.

At the present time, three shelters are in operation: One in Edmonton, one in Calgary and one in Lethbridge. During the year 1915 the present shelter in Calgary was completed. It is a plain but commodious building, and provides accommodation for about forty children in addition to the staff.

Shelters in Operation

The shelter at Medicine Hat has not yet been completed: for over a year work has been held up owing to financial stringency. Recently, however, His Worship Mayor Hawthorne intimated that if, during the coming season, the accommodation at the Calgary and Lethbridge shelters is taxed, Medicine Hat will be prepared either to complete the proposed building, or rent temporary quarters and place a matron in charge. The Department hopes that

some way will be found for the completion of the building, as the work in the southern part of the province could certainly be more effectively carried on with this shelter in operation.

No little credit is due to the matrons of these institutions for the work which has been accomplished. A great many children annually pass through their hands, probably about 1,000 in each of the larger cities, and about half that number in Lethbridge. When it is considered that these children come from a variety of homes, and range in age from infants of two or three weeks to boys and girls of from 15 to 16 years, it will be readily understood how difficult is the task.

Work of the Matrons



Shelter at Calgary opened in the Spring of 1915.

The fact that very few complaints of any kind, and none of any serious character, concerning the conditions prevailing in the shelters have come to us, is fairly good evidence of the kind of work that is being done.

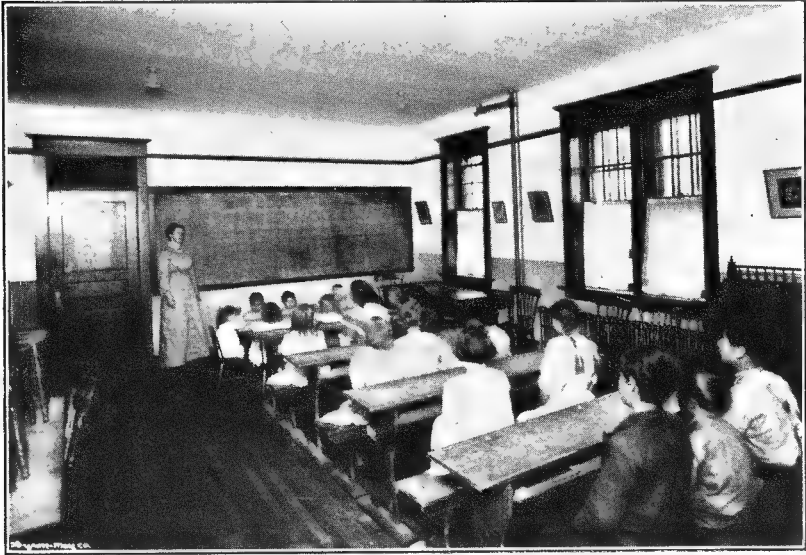
Separate Buildings Will Be Needed

The time is at hand, however, when in the larger cities some provision will have to be made to separate the delinquents from the dependents. It is very difficult to maintain proper discipline in an institution where runaway boys and delinquent girls are housed together in the same building with other children. As the work grows, it also becomes more and more apparent that separate quarters and separate playgrounds will have to be provided for boys and girls.

We are sometimes asked how many children we have in the shelters. In reply we feel like saying that it is not our business to place children in shelters, but to see that no normal child is

compelled to remain longer than a few weeks in any temporary home.

During the past year we have been successful in the great majority of cases. Very few of the children have been compelled to remain in shelters longer than a week or two.



A Shelter School

INSTITUTIONAL CARE

It must be recognized that institutions have their place. There are incorrigible boys and girls and defective people who can only be treated in institutions. For some years

Indeterminate Sentences now, the incorrigible boys who have come under the care of this Department, have been sent to the Industrial Training School at Portage la Prairie. The records of boys who have been dismissed from this institution are a proof of the excellent work which it is doing. The terms for which boys are sentenced are, as a rule, indeterminate. When a boy comes to us with a bad history, and out of conditions where lawlessness and petty crime abound, and fails to "make good" in a foster home, he is sent to this institution and is kept there until such time as the Superintendent of the institution, after careful observation of his case, is of the opinion that he will "make good" either in his own, or in some other private home.

It is impossible to expect success from a course in such an institution, unless the term is sufficiently long to give the boy new ideas and new ideals. The institution at Portage la Prairie provides for training in several trades, such as blacksmithing, plumbing, shoemaking, carpentering, and farming. A day school is conducted in which the regular school curriculum of the province is followed. Every boy in the institution must attend this school for at least five hours a day, in addition to studying his trade. An attempt is made to place boys at those trades for which they show a particular aptitude. The success of the boys who have "made good" after having spent a term in this school is largely due to the fact that when they obtained their liberty they felt they were in a position to earn an independent living and to make a success of life.

During the year 1915 it was necessary for the Department to maintain an average of about 13 boys at this institution.

The problem of placing incorrigible girls in a proper institution, is a little more difficult. There is no institution in the province at the present time adequately equipped to properly care for these girls. **Placing Incorrigible Girls** The Home of the Sisters of Charity of the Refuge, Edmonton, and the Social Service Homes in Edmonton and Calgary are doing excellent work, considering their limited accommodation. None of them, however, are in a position to provide the training for these girls that will make them independent and able to earn their own livelihood when they are given their liberty again. This is a great handicap to girls who spend perhaps one, two or even three years in these places.

The hope of the Department is that there will be, in the not distant future, one or more institutions with up-to-date equipment where these girls can be sent with the knowledge that they will not only be retained, but that they will become familiar with some occupation which will stand them in good stead in their after lives.

**New Institution
Necessary**

At the present time we have 12 girls in the Social Service Home in Edmonton, 5 in the Social Service Home, Calgary, 4 in the Home of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Edmonton, and 1 in the Ruthenian Convent, Edmonton.

Special mention should be made of the fact that the Social Service Home in Edmonton was opened in the early part of the year 1915, and since the work was begun under the able leadership of Mrs. Askew, much good has been accomplished. We have found it necessary from time to time to make mention of the good work done by all of these institutions.

When a foreign girl comes under our care, it is sometimes a great problem to know what to do with her. She finds it impossible to associate in a friendly way with the other girls in any institution. In this connection we must make special mention of the work of the Ruthenian Home for Girls, over which Mrs. Snyder presides in her motherly, kindly way.

**Care of Non-
English-Speaking
Girls**

More recently we have been able to send Roman Catholic girls to the Ruthenian Convent, where the sisters teach them English and the rudiments of house-keeping, so that they may be equipped for service in private homes.

The sympathetic co-operation of the matrons and nurses in these institutions have done much to increase the efficiency of the work for the rescue of young girls.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES

For some years past, the annual report of this Department has contained a plea on behalf of the mentally defective boys and girls of the province, and as our work from time to time brings us into contact with an ever-increasing number of this class, we feel like being still more persistent.

Almost every day the mail brings to us heart-rending appeals from parents who have one or more mentally defective children

Appeals for the Unfortunate

in their homes, asking that some steps be taken to protect them from themselves, or give them such opportunity in life as a proper institution would make possible. We have invariably to reply that as far as the province is concerned, no provision has been made for this class, and under these circumstances the Department can do absolutely nothing.

In addition to this, we have at our shelters and in other homes in the province, numbers of defectives who, otherwise, would be absolutely homeless. These do not fit into our system of home-finding, and unless something is done for them in the near future, they will seriously impair the work of the shelters. We, with other social workers, have been greatly interested in notices which have appeared in the press recently, indicating that something definite is to be done in the way of providing institutional care for these unfortunates.

Society owes it to the mentally defective boys and girls to save them from themselves, and to make their lives as happy and useful as possible. Lacking in self-control,

Society's Debt to the Defective

many of them are incapable of resisting temptation, their wills are weak, they act upon impulse rather than reason, are easily led, and are susceptible to evil influences and designing personages, and fall into criminal ways, and sooner or later are branded as criminals and herded with others of that ilk.

Even if society is not kindly enough to save these defectives from themselves, it must, in self defence, make some provision for them. The following paragraph is taken

Society Should Defend Itself

from an editorial which appeared recently in The Survey.

"From feeble-mindedness comes a very large part of our prostitution, alcoholism, crime, pauperism and disease. By segregating in comfortable, and well-managed institutions and colonies, we attack these evils at their source. By neglecting to provide such care and by treating the feeble-minded as if they were responsible for their acts, we exhibit the most astounding folly and the most complete disregard of all sound principles of human observation."

Care for the feeble-minded adequately for a generation, and expenditures for prisons, reformatories, police, poor, hospitals, and



Types for which we hope soon to have a place of shelter and training.

almshouses will be enormously reduced. It has been variously estimated that from 25 per cent. to 60 per cent. of the inmates of reformatories, industrial schools, prisons and penitentiaries should be properly classified as mental defectives.

The lot of the mental defective is always sad, but the case of the mentally defective girl is particularly distressing. Comely and

**Care of the
Mentally Defective
Girl**

interesting, sometimes, she is known to be immoral. It is a deplorable fact that the mentally deficient girl can always find a mate, even among normal men. On many of these cases, time, money, and sympathy are bestowed, but all to no purpose. Within a little time the object of this concern is in disgrace again. What we forget is, that the girl is not responsible. She can no more live in accordance with the conventions of society than she can take to herself wings and fly. Adding to the seriousness of the problem is the probability that these defectives will propagate their species. During the last few months, several cases have been brought to the attention of the Department of Dependent and Delinquent Children in which mentally deficient mothers are rearing defective children. In some cases these mothers are girls.

Society cannot afford to allow this species to propagate itself.

Taking it for granted that an institution will be provided, in it everything should tend towards the happiness and comfort of

**What the
Institutions Should
Provide**

the inmates. Everyone is happier by having something to do, provided that that something is suited to his or her capacity. To require a mental defective to spend much time in the ordinary grade work is more or less futile. Experience in such places as Vineland, N.J., has shown that much can be done with industrial work, manual training, and sometimes even music. These people lack the power of concentration. They are apathetic in their interest in books, but in many cases take readily to the industrial branches. They can be reached much more easily through their hands than any other channel. In many cases, after some training, they become producers, and much can be done in such an institution to make it at least partly self-supporting.

Nothing but apathy on the part of the public can long delay some provision being made for these unfortunates. Public-spirited citizens, officials, charitable organizations, civic and commercial bodies, would do well to urge the adoption of a forward policy for the selfish motive, if you like, of protecting society, or for the unselfish and more compelling motive of enabling these boys and girls who have been deprived of that which is most dear to us, of living their lives in happy and wholesome surroundings.

MEDICAL CARE

A great number of the younger dependent children who come to us are suffering from mal-nutrition, hernia, or venereal ophthalmia, whilst many of the older children are afflicted with adenoids, tonsils, defective teeth, defective vision, and in a great number of cases more serious ailments.

It would be worse than useless to attempt to make anything of these children without first providing proper medical care. An honest effort has been made to provide the needed treatment in each case. Had it not been, however, for the goodness of the medical fraternity throughout the province, we would not have been able to accomplish this in scores of cases. The thanks of the Department, and we think of the whole province, are due to these men, who have willingly given of their time and experience to these unfortunates.



Before a delicate operation and after.

We have taken the position that all matrons of shelters must be trained nurses, and they must have a sufficient number of trained assistants to enable them to give scientific care to each patient. This, of course, increases the cost of maintenance, but it is undoubtedly a good business proposition.

**Matrons are
Trained Nurses**

The mortality rate in the shelters for the last year was very low, in spite of the fact that these institutions are dealing with children who have never had any opportunity of building up their physical strength.

School boards, by the appointment of doctors and nurses, are insisting more and more upon proper medical attention being given to all our school population. There are many cases, however, reported by the medical inspectors that are never attended to.



In the Medical Ward of the Edmonton Shelter.

We wonder if some authority could not be given to compel parents to provide such treatment as the medical advisor says is absolutely necessary.

More attention should be given to the effect of ill-health and physical defects upon delinquency. A little girl was picked up in

**Ill-Health Tends
to Immorality**

the City of Calgary last summer, suffering from a serious defect of the eyes. She seemed to be of the opinion that she was marked out in some way for ridicule, and was regarded as a kind of abnormal. Through the careful work of Dr. Spankie, her vision was corrected, and, with the correction of vision—and improved personal appearance—a very marked improvement took place in this girl. She told the probation officer in whose care she was, that she felt like a new girl, and could now take her

place with respectable companions. This was a large factor in her recovery from the vicious life which she had been leading.

In the case of delinquent boys, weak and neurasthenic conditions make it frequently impossible for them to withstand temptation. When it is remembered that literally hundreds of cases of dependents and delinquents come to us, whose first need is medical care, it would seem to be a good business proposition for the province to expend a much larger sum in giving the necessary treatment to these cases.

DELINQUENT GIRLS

It is distressing to think that the number of delinquent girls throughout the continent is steadily increasing. Yet, according to investigations recently made by a number of most prominent sociological workers, this is the sad fact.

The time is at hand when some steps should be taken, not only to redeem the erring, but in every way possible to conserve the sweet innocence and womanly charm that are so ruthlessly squandered.

During the last year our matrons and lady probation officers have dealt with about 550 of these girls. They range in age all the way from 13 to 17 years. Some of them

Delinquent Girls Dealt With have been the innocent victims of the fiends in human flesh who have followed them to their undoing. Others seem to be physically and mentally deficient at one point. Jane Adams, of Chicago, states that ninety per cent. of all girls' crimes are sex crimes. Those in the first class, are, as a rule, easy to deal with. They are more or less repentant and seem to appreciate every effort that is put forth on their behalf. As a rule, kind ladies can be found who, when the stories of the girls are told them, are willing to take them into their homes and give them an opportunity to redeem themselves.

A great many first offenders have been dealt with in this way, and the reports of the lady probation officers show that a large number of this class have been reclaimed.

From the defective class come largely the incorrigibles. The Department cannot recommend them to private homes. They have for the most part to be kept in Social Service Homes, or placed with the Sisters of the Refuge, and other such institutions. In these places they sometimes make good resolutions, but many of them find it difficult when at liberty again to withstand the temptations which are thrown in their way. Dealing with this class of girl is in many respects a discouraging work, but it is absolutely necessary. It should always be borne in mind that it takes time, tact and sympathy to accomplish any good in each particular case. There should be a sufficient number of lady probation officers to deal without haste, and effectually with each girl that comes to the care of the Department.

The Department has in several cases been instrumental in bringing the offender against the girl to justice, sometimes by the use of the Juvenile Delinquents Act, and sometimes by furnishing the evidence for prosecution in the Criminal Court. There have been a few very serious cases of incest where young girls were concerned. A number of sentences have been secured, and one brutal father was sent to the penitentiary for a term of seven years.

Crimes Against Girls

What these girls need in addition to the efforts of the lady probation officers, is a little bit of mothering or sistering. We wonder sometimes if the good ladies of the various communities could not render more assistance in protecting these girls from themselves and temptation, by encouraging them in the thought that, although a mistake has been made, it is still possible to redeem the past and make something of themselves.

Women probation officers throughout the province, ought to be congratulated upon the work which they have accomplished during the past year. Miss Jackson and Miss

Work of Women Tompkins, of Edmonton, have dealt with
Probation Officers almost 300 girls, varying in ages from 10 to 16 years. Mrs. Bagnall, of Calgary, with the assistance of Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford, have cared for about 250. In addition to this, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge officers have provided for such cases as have arisen in these cities.

Emphasis has been placed upon prevention, and many girls have been saved from falling into the clutches of unprincipled individuals who were ready to exploit them and start them on the road to ruin. It must be understood that the cost of caring for a girl who has gone wrong is larger than the cost of caring for a boy. The girl seems to have lost so much, that it is very difficult for her to find a place again in society. Unfortunately there are comparatively few women who are prepared to give a delinquent girl a chance to "make good" in a private home.

Many of the delinquent girls who come to us are suffering from serious diseases. In many cases the Department has found it necessary to give them long and expensive treatment. We think that this is good business, however, and is the first practical step in helping the girl to escape from her past life.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Ninety per cent. of the delinquences of children may be traced to the neglect, vicious habits, or indulgence of parents and other adults. Almost every time a boy or girl stands accused of wrongdoing before a Commissioner of the Juvenile Court, some grown person could be rightly charged with having contributed to the child's delinquency.

The child problem can never be satisfactorily treated unless every effort is made to strike out the prevailing influences which are degrading and demoralizing children.

Prosecuting Adults For this reason, a special attempt is being made at the present time to bring adults who commit crimes against children to justice. Hitherto, the laws of the province which make it possible to deal stringently with such persons have been exercised only in extreme cases. It has been found very easy to have the child declared a ward of the Children's Aid Society or the Superintendent of Neglected Children, but much more difficult to induce the Court to impose the full penalty of the law upon adults who are the real delinquents.

During the last half of the past year, we have persisted in having those cases which came to our notice brought before the Court, and we were successful in securing 67 convictions. It is our intention to persist in this kind of work until it becomes more widely known that in Alberta it is considered a serious crime to neglect or abuse an innocent child.

Crimes against young girls are altogether too frequent, and the fact that too many hardened villains have escaped without punishment, does not tend to reduce the number of such cases. It is understood that evidence in crimes like these is hard to obtain, but there should be no disposition to spare the guilty party.

LIST OF CHARGES AGAINST ADULTS, FOR OFFENCES IN CONNECTION WITH CHILDREN, FROM JANUARY 1st, 1915, TO DECEMBER 31st, 1915, WITH RESULTS

OFFENCE	Informations			With-
	laid.	Convictions	Dismissed	
Contributing to delinquency	23	16	5	2
Contributing to neglect of child ..	37	36	1	0
Indecent exposure	1	1	0	0
Indecent assault	3	3	0	0
Seduction	4	3	1	0
Procuring ...	1	0	1	0
Incest	1	1	0	0
Carnal knowledge	3	2	1	0
Cigarettes to minors	2	2	0	0
Selling firearms to minors ...	3	3	0	0
TOTAL	78	67	9	2

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

During the year 1915, 103 illegitimate children were dealt with by the Department. Statistics of illegitimacy are difficult to obtain. There is a natural inclination on the part of doctors and nurses, and even hospital attendants, to screen the mothers of illegitimate children. From our information, however, we do not think that there has been any abnormal increase in the number of illegitimates in proportion to our population.

In many instances children are born into homes where the parents are living amicably without the marriage bond. Recent

Responsibility for Illegitimate Children

amendments to the Criminal Code have made it possible, in cases where a man and woman are recognized by the community as husband and wife, to saddle upon the man the duty and responsibility of providing for the children. In this connection we quote Sections 242*a* and 242*b* of the Criminal Code:

"242*a*. Everyone is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars, or to one year's imprisonment, or to both, who—

"(a) As a husband or head of a family, is under a legal duty to provide necessities for his wife or any child under sixteen years of age; or

"(b) As a parent or guardian, is under a legal duty to provide necessities for any child under sixteen years of age; and who, if such wife or child is in destitute or necessitous circumstances, without lawful excuse, neglects or refuses to provide such necessities.

"242*b*. Upon any prosecution under Sections 242 or 242*a*, evidence that a man has cohabited with a woman, or has in any way recognized her as being his wife, shall be *prima facie* evidence that they are lawfully married, and evidence that a man has in any way recognized children as being his children, shall be *prima facie* evidence that they are his legitimate children."

Public sentiment is willing to concede to the mother the right to keep her unlawful child, if she can do so. To encourage her

The Mother's Right

to give up her child would tend to the depreciation of the laws of nature. Many unhappy girls are disposed to take a mother's part, and will give up their child only as a last resource.

Great pains are taken to obtain from every mother a full history of the infant, and the name of the father. In this matter our legal requirements would seem to be somewhat lax. There should be some means of compelling the father to share in the responsibility of the child. Young women bear the full brunt of their wrong-doing. In many cases they not only suffer the disgrace, but are compelled to pay all the expenses in connection with the birth and maintenance of the child.

Many of the mothers of these children are, unfortunately, of low mentality, and are, to a certain extent at least, irresponsible.

Mothers of Low Mentality This fact makes it all the more difficult to deal with them in any satisfactory way. The work of the Beulah Home, Edmonton; the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and the Salvation Army Home, Calgary, is worthy of high commendation. Were it not for such institutions as these we sometimes wonder what would become of the unfortunate young mothers who have been so ruthlessly wronged.

We are prone to look upon the illegitimate child as an object of pity, but there is good reason to believe that if it is healthy, of normal parentage, and is given equal opportunities with other children, its future may be assured. There is, as a rule, no mark, either mental or physical, to betray its origin.

Hope for Nobody's Child Later on it can take its place in society and overcome the prejudice of its birth, provided it has good health and a bright mentality. It frequently finds a place in a foster home, and in time comes to be loved and cared for in a way that assures it not only a comfortable, but a happy and prosperous future.

CAUSES OF DELINQUENCY AND DEPENDENCY

There are many ways of robbing a child of its birthright, but a study of the cases dealt with by this Department during the past year, points to certain pre-disposing causes to which we would like to direct the attention of the public.

By far the largest proportion of youthful delinquencies can be traced to bad conditions prevailing in the home. The home is properly regarded as the Gibraltar of Society. Where there is a breakdown in home conditions, there are sure to be irregularities in neighbourhood life.

Bad Home Conditions

Perhaps 90% of the boys and girls who have come to be regarded as incorrigibles, have developed this trend because their parents have failed to keep them under proper control, or to provide some suitable form of occupation or amusement. Just recently a gang of 12 boys appeared in one day before the Juvenile Court accused of theft. This delinquency was committed at night, when



One-roomed Country Home where six children, parents and hired man lived.

the young lads should have been at home and in bed. A large number of the incorrigible girls have been led into immoral ways in a similar way. The parents allow them to go out in the evening hours with young men with whom they are not acquainted. Sometimes the girls are simply children, who should be at home playing about their mothers' knees. It is only when it is too late that the parents waken up to the fact that a great wrong has

been committed, and that the girl herself has acquired a taste for a gaiety which it is hard to satisfy.

A good house is not necessary to a good home. Many healthy, robust families have been raised in one-roomed shacks; nevertheless, experience teaches us that it is unsafe to rear large families in too contracted quarters. For whole families to eat, sleep, dress, and perform all the functions of life in one room, naturally tends to the break-down of those delicacies which are so necessary to the maintenance of a high moral standard.

It is almost incredible that such a large number of fathers and mothers are prepared to sacrifice their children on the altars of vice and self-indulgence. Nearly one-third of the cases brought to our attention can be traced to the open vice of either parent. There are, of course, a great many instances where the parents later on realize the mistake they have made, and try as best they can to regain the control of their children.

Poor Housing Conditions

Parents With Vicious Habits



Nine people were discovered sleeping in this city shack.

They often find, however, that steps have been taken which makes it almost impossible to build up their homes again. This is a terrible inheritance to give to a family.

Drink has sometimes been regarded as the parent source of all vices. There is no doubt that it has contributed largely to conditions listed under "bad home conditions," such as cruelty to children, parents quarrelling, and other items in the list of causes given for dependency and delinquency.

A careful analysis of these causes, however, would show that other things enter very largely, and sometimes are the causes of the drink habit, as well as the results of it.

The influx of a large proportion of the foreign element into this province during the last decade has seriously complicated our problems. Many of these people, naturally, are as moral and upright as the Canadian born, but have been reared in places where other standards obtained. Coming to this country, they are unfamiliar with the laws of the land and the ways of the people. Early in life their boys and girls become their instructors in many things. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and this "little knowledge" is what the foreign boy or girl acquires and attempts to teach the parents, and sometimes it proves to be his undoing.

Influx of Foreign-Born

Few people understand the temptations of street life. We have the idea that the newsboy is in the great majority of cases training himself by hard knocks and experience to become a competent merchant or financier. The names of the great merchant princes who have risen from street life to positions of affluence and influence are held up before us as examples of what such a training may accomplish for a boy. There is no discrediting this training, but it ought not to be forgotten that the lad also learns his first lessons in crime from the street and street occupations.

From the number of these boys who appear before the Juvenile Court, we think that the age at which a boy is allowed to undertake boot-blackening or news-selling should be kept as high as is consistent with the demands of the times.

Economic conditions have certainly a great deal to do with delinquency. Especially is this the case in a home where every member of the family, father, mother, boy and girl, is compelled to work. This condition generally leads to divers interests. There is no cohesion, no "gathering to the ingle-nook" such as Bobbie Burns speaks of in his "Cottar's Saturday Night." From these loosely joined homes many complaints come.

Economic Conditions

Mention should also be made of positions in which many young girls are placed, whose work in hotels, rooming houses, and other such institutions brings great temptations in their way.

Position of Many Working Girls

It would be impossible for us to detail all the causes, but what we would like to insist upon is the necessity of not only looking after the victims of these conditions, but of a continued educational campaign looking toward the righting of the conditions themselves.

If an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, the energy and money spent upon righting the wrongs in society, that must in the end develop delinquency, would accomplish greater results than all our efforts spent on reforming those who have already gone astray.

The causes of dependency, in the 439 cases dealt with by this Department during the year 1915, may be classified as follows:

Father immoral	12
Mother immoral	30
Father deserted family	10
Mother deserted family	18
Excessive drinking of parents ..	6
Father dead	22
Mother dead	29
Father in prison	6
Mother in prison	6
Poverty	5
Bad home conditions	95
Cruelty to children	11
Parents quarrelling	4
Illegitimates	109
Child ran away from home	17
Child immoral	28
Child beyond control of parents ..	25
Parents insane	6
TOTAL	439

A similar table might be given for delinquents, but the same causes and practically the same percentages would appear.

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK

Those who are interested in sociological work have been encouraged by the emphasis which has recently been placed upon constructive efforts.

Civic bodies and school boards have, during the last decade, given a good deal of thought and expended large sums of money in providing sane and healthy amusement for the youth in the various localities.

We have reason to believe that the playground movement, and such organizations as the Boy Scouts, and Boys' Clubs in connection with the various churches, have done much to guide otherwise misdirected energies. They have saved thousands of homes from being broken up, and restrained thousands of children from launching into ways of crime.

This Department is doing all it can to encourage these and other movements that are attempting to provide some wholesome substitutes for the street corner playground, the cheap dance hall, and the more sensational type of picture show.

In Edmonton the women probation officers have been trying out an experiment in the way of a club for girls whose lives are dreary and monotonous for want of some wholesome recreation and companionship. In this club, games, music, and other lively amusements are indulged in. An attempt has also been made to conduct evening classes in order that girls who are backward may have a chance to improve themselves. We are of the opinion that a good many interested men and women could not do better than devote some of their time to the encouragement and assistance of similar institutions.

The work that is being done may seem at the time small and futile, but if we are not mistaken it will mean a great deal in the building up of our young nation.

SAMPLE LETTERS

"As it is some time since we have written you with regard to our children, we thought you would be interested to know how they are getting along.

"We all spent a very pleasant summer amongst our friends in Ontario, and Mr. ----- and ----- returned in November with a car of stock, while little ----- and I came at the close of the Old Year. Both children are in good health and growing well, and are quite happy and pleased to be back to the little home on the Prairie. Little ----- is the treasure and sunshine of our home, a joy to all who come in contact with her, and we feel grateful indeed to the kind Providence who, through you, placed her in our home."

"I have sent you a photo of our dear little girl, and hope you have received it. She is the happiest baby on earth and a sunshine for us. She was very sick all last winter, we did not expect her to live, but now she is real well, walks all over. I don't believe I could love my own child any more than I love her. She is full of good dispositions and has very little temper, just enough to be smart. She is the best of all."

"Will write you a few lines to let you know how our little boy is getting along. He is well and healthy and doing fine, and is such a bright child. He makes friends wherever he goes. We could never get along without him now."

"I would like to get another little girl, about 6 or 8 years old. The little one I took is as near perfect as a child could be her age. She had the measles two weeks after she came here; since she has been perfectly well. We have two more foster children—boys, 2 years and 4 years. One more little girl will complete our family."

"Our boy being two years today. I wanted to write you and tell you how well he is getting on. Well, our boy has developed wonderfully; he is just a fine specimen of a healthy two-year-old boy, and we trust he will have no drawbacks, we are watchful, and are doing our best for him. He did not begin to walk at all early, but after we got him we bought a young cow specially to have good milk, and he just seemed to put on weight. For a time we were afraid he was going to have bent legs, but his mother and myself have missed few nights giving him a good olive oil massage, and the results are showing now. Twice our doctor has examined him for us, and states he is sound. Of course we are pleased he is getting on so well; he is now beginning to chat, and is a joy to us. They need a good deal of watching and training we find, even at the early age, but we have always wished he would grow up well trained and go out into the world and become a good citizen. Good home training means so much to any man or woman in after life, we think. Now we would like to get a little girl. We are in no hurry at all, but do not want to raise R----- alone, as we think it has a tendency to make them grow up selfish."

"I beg to inform you that the little girl is getting on splendid. She is healthy and very bright for her age, and is altogether a great pleasure to us."

"Will let you know of our change of address, and also of the condition of our baby. She is a very healthy, happy child, and is as near and dear to us as though we had given her her life."

"It will no doubt be of interest to you to know something of the boy recently adopted by us. We have a very bright and exceptionally intelligent child, and we confidently anticipate at some future time to report the beginning of a useful career, to be followed up by the many acquainted with the circumstances surrounding his life with unusual interest."

"As I have not let you know for some time how our baby is, I will now write you. He is doing nicely; he was two years old on the first of last November, and is great company to us on the homestead, as we have no other children, and we are very fond of him. It is now almost two years since we took him from the Home."

"Just a few lines to let you know that little F—— is well and growing fine. We like her very much and could not part with her now. Mr. —— is greatly taken up with her, and she will soon seem like our own baby. She is very good natured as long as she has her food and sleep. Everyone who sees her thinks she is a smart little girl, and she certainly is very old-fashioned."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thanks of the Department are due to the Hon. C. W. Cross, Attorney General, who has always shown a sympathetic personal interest in the work for children.

To the various organizations throughout the province, who have studied the children's problem and have co-operated with us in seeking how to solve it.

To the homes who have received as their own the homeless and destitute children who have been made wards of this Department.

To the Royal North-West Mounted Police of the province, who have always been ready to lend their assistance and active co-operation in enforcing The Children's Protection Act. It would have been impossible to accomplish much of the important work without the aid of this organization. The officers commanding the different divisions have, without exception, given us their whole-hearted sympathy and support.

To the municipal police forces in this province, who have rendered us much valuable assistance and co-operation.

To the institutions throughout the province, who have received and cared for many children, with whom it would otherwise have been impossible to deal. Special mention should be made of the Social Service Home in Calgary, the Social Service Home in Edmonton, The Beulah Mission, Edmonton; The Lacombe Home, Midnapore; The Youville Convent, St. Albert; and the Sisters of the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Edmonton.

To the medical men of Alberta, who have willingly given their time and skill in remedying physical defects among the destitute little ones who have come under our care.

To the various newspapers published throughout the province, for their courtesy in publishing articles which have been sent them, dealing with the problem of the child in the community, and for their assistance in helping us to find foster homes through the medium of their pages.

To the Commissioners appointed in the various districts of the province, under The Children's Protection Act, who have willingly given their time to dispose of the cases which have come before them in the Juvenile Courts. Many of these men have found time to give to the problem of the neglected and delinquent child, in spite of large business interests. They have given their time gratuitously, and have done much to aid in solving many of the problems confronting the Department.

To the various churches and organizations of the province, who have given us their hearty co-operation, and have, by throwing open their meetings to the Department, enabled the plea for the betterment of the conditions of the child to become more widely known, in many instances interesting people who, otherwise, would have never heard of the work which is being done for the dependent and delinquent child of Alberta.

STATISTICS AND REPORTS

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS DEALT WITH, 675

Sex of Dependents		Nationality of Dependents	
Male	344	Polish	11
Female	331	Scotch	51
Number dealt with	675	Canadian	200
Age of Dependents		English	112
Under 1	117	Norwegian	17
1	51	Swede	4
2	41	German	47
3	43	Slav	3
4	31	French-Canadian	10
5	26	American	57
6	34	Irish	11
7	38	Half-breed	7
8	28	Austrian	29
9	35	Hungarian	1
10	21	Russian	46
11	30	Bohemian	4
12	31	Negro	3
13	40	Ruthenian	2
14	38	Galician	13
15	34	French	14
16	31	Italian	8
17	6	Welsh	1
		Servian	1
	675	Jew	13
Religion of Dependents		Finlander	2
Greek Orthodox	8	Icelander	2
Greek Catholic	36	Dutch	4
Lutheran	53	Chinese	2
Moravian	2		675
Hebrew	13	Placing of Dependents	
Unitarian	1	Adopted	195
Adventist	1	Returned to relatives	254
Evangelist	2	R.C. Institutions	12
Salvation Army	2	Protestant Institutions	4
Church of England	146	Placed at work	95
Roman Catholic	137	Died	20
Presbyterian	111	In Shelters	61
Protestant	82	In Hospitals	32
Methodist	55	Ruthenian Home	2
Baptist	23		
	675		675

Dependents—Electoral Districts From

Lethbridge	26	Leduc	6
Edmonton North	146	Lac Ste Anne	17
Edmonton South	66	Vegreville	14
Red Deer	8	Vermillion	7
Calgary South	141	Arcadia	11
Calgary North	68	Cochrane	5
Wetaskiwin	3	Taber	17
Wainwright	7	Pincher Creek	8
Lacombe	2	Olds	8
Medicine Hat	13	Redcliff	4
Edson	4	St. Albert	4

Alexandra	3	Pembina	6
St. Paul	1	High River	3
Didsbury	2	Stettler	9
Gleichen	1	Stony Plain	9
Peace River	1	Innisfail	6
Rocky Mountain	15	Little Bow	1
Hand Hills	2	Bow Valley	2
Athabasca	7	Cardston	3
Ponoka	3	Macleod	1
Beaver River	1	Nanton	1
Grouard	3	Outside Province	6
Camrose	3		
Okotoks	1		
			675

Dependents—Placed Out in Electoral Districts

Calgary South	112	Edmonton South	67
Edmonton North	110	Wainwright	9
Red Deer	11	Lethbridge	18
Lacombe	5	Taber	8
Edson	4	Vegreville	5
Medicine Hat	19	St. Albert	9
Arcadia	6	Little Bow	2
Vermilion	10	Cochrane	6
Bow Valley	4	Alexandra	10
Gleichen	6	Okotoks	7
Camrose	5	High River	2
Pembina	6	Nanton	2
Olds	10	Rocky Mountain	3
Macleod	8	Redcliff	3
Victoria	8	Hand Hills	3
Sedgewick	2	Coronation	3
Warner	1	Lac Ste. Anne	5
Ribstone	1	Peace River	1
Wetaskiwin	5	Stettler	8
Stony Plain	8	Didsbury	2
Pincher Creek	3	Athabasca	6
Innisfail	4	Claresholm	1
Cardston	1	Grouard	3
Ponoka	1	In Shelters	61
Beaver River	1	Outside Province	11
Died	20		
Calgary North	48		675

NUMBER OF DELINQUENTS DEALT WITH, 382

Sex of Delinquents		Religion of Delinquents	
Male	315	Roman Catholic ..	89
Female	67	Methodist	37
Number dealt with	382	Presbyterian	56
		Protestant	32
Ages of Delinquents		Church of England	59
Five	2	Lutheran	49
Six	6	Jewish	14
Seven	12	Salvation Army ..	3
Eight	20	Church of Christ ..	1
Nine	3	Baptist	2
Ten	28	Ruthenian	2
Eleven	29	Moravian	2
Twelve	28	Greek Catholic ..	5
Thirteen	58	Greek Orthodox ..	6
Fourteen	93	Adventist	2
Fifteen	64	Free Thinker	1
Sixteen	37	Spiritualist	1
Seventeen	2	Latter Day Saints ..	1
		None	1
	382		382

Home Conditions			
Good	168	Discharging firearms	4
Bad	56	Witness	5
Fair	151	Cruelty	8
Poor	5	False pretences	1
None	1	Forgery	1
Unknown	1	Breaking of Railway Act	1
	382	Shooting	1
		Arson	1
		Sheep stealing	2
			382
Nationality of Delinquents		Electoral Districts From	
Canadian	137	Edmonton	175
American	22	Calgary	143
German	47	Rocky Mountain	1
French	9	Vegreville	6
English	44	Vermilion	1
Hebrew	13	Medicine Hat	7
Russian	20	St. Albert	2
Galician	5	Lac Ste. Anne	2
Scotch	20	Camrose	1
Austrian	15	Lethbridge	19
Italian	3	Cardston	1
Ruthenian	1	Lacombe	6
Irish	10	Stony Plain	2
Swede	5	Beaver River	1
Polish	7	Gleichen	1
Dutch	6	Victoria	6
Norwegian	1	Sedgewick	2
Slav	3	Leduc	4
Half Breed	4	Wainwright	2
Bohemian	2		382
French Canadian	8		
	382		
Offences		Disposition of Delinquents	
Theft	120	Probation	155
Breaking of Bylaw	49	Returned to parents	60
Incorrigible	55	Portage la Prairie	14
Willful damage	65	Placed on farms	20
Immoral	16	Fined	62
Vagrancy	2	Warned	37
Breaking and entering	33	Suspended sentence	11
Runaway	5	Institutions for Girls	16
Indecent assault	9	Birched	7
Truant	4		382

PLACED IN REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, 36

Sex		Religion (Male)	
Male	14	Roman Catholic	7
Female	22	Presbyterian	3
Number Sentenced	36	Methodist	1
		Lutheran	1
		Greek Catholic	1
		Greek Orthodox	1
			14
Nationality (Male)		Age (Male)	
French	2	Thirteen	3
American	1	Fourteen	4
Russian	1	Fifteen	6
German	1	Sixteen	1
Scotch	3		14
Austrian	3		
Polish	1		
Half-breed	2		
	14		

Offences (Male)		Religion (Female)	
Incorrigible	5	Roman Catholic	6
Theft	8	Church of England	3
Arson	1	Presbyterian	4
	—	Methodist	4
	14	Baptist	1
		Lutheran	3
		Congregationalist	1
			—
			22
Age (Female)		Nationality (Female)	
Thirteen	2	French	5
Fourteen	4	English	5
Fifteen	8	American	3
Sixteen	5	Canadian	3
Seventeen	3	German	4
	—	Scotch	2
	22		—
			22
Offences (Female)			
Incorrigible	8		
Theft	1		
Immoral	13		
	—		
	22		

REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, CALGARY

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

I beg to submit herewith the Fourth Annual Report of our Society for the year ending December 31st, 1915. In accordance with an order received from the late Superintendent re changing the ending of the Society's year from October 31st to December 31st, it was resolved at a regular meeting of the Society, held on June 10th, after due monthly notice, that the financial year of the Society begin and end in future with the calendar year.

The year which has just drawn to a close has been one of steady development and progress. In the various departments of the work, caring for the neglected, preventing child labour, dealing with delinquents, providing foster homes for the homeless, protecting the wayward, ministering to the diseased and deformed, and prosecuting those guilty of crimes against children. The aim of the Society has been to give every child a chance, irrespective of the circumstances surrounding its life, in accordance with the general principles set forth in The Children's Protection Act.

During the past year, there were two hundred and ninety cases dealt with in the Juvenile Court, as compared with four hundred and sixty-three for the year previous. The record by months for each year is as follows:

	1914.	1915.		1914.	1915.
January	15	9	July	30	35
February	27	32	August	50	13
March	34	26	September	38	51
April	35	17	October	64	9
May	65	30	November	24	22
June	57	23	December	24	23

There were 71 sessions of the Court held, the presiding judges being the Rev John McDougall, D.D., F. D. Beveridge, Esq., and T. A. P. Frost, Esq., for the boy cases generally, and Mrs. R. R. Jamieson and Mrs. Fred Langford, whose appointments date from June 1st last, for the girls' cases. Dr. McDougall presided at 46 sessions, and Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford at 18 sessions. A most important element in the Juvenile Court system is the personality of the judge, and it would indeed be hard to find a group of men and women more thoroughly devoted to the work, or better fitted for it, than are the judges who every week preside at the sittings of our Juvenile Court. No one outside of those immediately connected with the Court can have any idea of the large amount of time and effort that is expended in the hearing and determining of complaints against juvenile offenders. I wonder if the City quite realizes the extent of its obligation to these unselfish, large hearted men and women, who are devoting so much time and effort to this most important work, without a cent of remuneration.

Number of Delinquents dealt with, Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st..	211
Males	182
Females	29
Number Children made Wards by Court's Order	56
Males	24
Females	32
Number Boys committed to Portage la Prairie	3

It should be observed that the figures given above do not include scores of cases which were settled out of Court without the necessity of permanent record. Some of the best work of the Society is never recorded or tabulated.

It will be noted that the number of delinquency cases is nearly 24 per cent. smaller than that of last year. This is a most encouraging fact, and due largely to the wider employment of preventive measures. It is significant that this year there were very few repeaters, or delinquents who had been up before the Court for a second or third offence.

One reason for this, and probably the principal reason, has been the splendid work and influence of the Juvenile Court Committee under the capable leadership of Mr. Sharpe of the Y. M. C. A., who was present at many sessions of the Juvenile Court, and acted as Probation Officer in quite a number of cases. Not a single case turned over to Mr. Sharpe and his band of "Big Brothers" turned out to be a failure.

It may be of interest to mention in this connection that 22 of our boys have responded to the call of their country, and are wearing the khaki.

So far, only two of these boys have proved to be failures. One boy, who had to be committed twice to Portage la Prairie, walked in all the way from Red Deer to join the service. He is doing well, and the service is making a man of him. Naturally, we feel proud of these soldier boys. The noble part they are now playing is but added proof of the fact that patient effort and sympathy expended on behalf of the friendless and neglected, seldom fail to produce good results in the end.

Every child is medically examined before being admitted to the Shelter. This is to prevent the introduction of disease, and also to furnish a guide for nurses, especially in the case of children of feeble constitution. These examinations were mainly performed by Dr. W. E. Spankie, Dr. W. Egbert, Dr. A. T. Spankie and Dr. Mahood, to all of whom the thanks of the Society are due.

To Drs. McEachern, Roach, Francis, Egbert, Williams, Stewart, Danks and Coleman, who so efficiently acted as visiting physicians at the Shelter during this year, the thanks of the Society are most

heartily tendered. But quite a large number of cases outside the Shelter receive attention and treatment.

This is indeed an important feature of our work. The most common cases dealt with are adenoids, enlarged tonsils, defective eyes, nose and teeth, ringworm, deformed feet, etc. Nearly 80 per cent of these cases were treated by Dr. A. T. Spankie. Dr. McPhatter and Dr. Dean also kindly gave the Society the benefit of their advice and services in some difficult cases dealt with.

Other doctors who placed the Society under deep obligation for free services rendered in the treatment of the teeth of our children were Dr. J. E. McDonald and Dr. A. E. Hennigar, both warm and loyal friends of the Society.

This is probably our most difficult problem. During the year some 200 girls received help and protection from the Society, practically the same number as came under the care of the Society last

year. As there has been no appreciable change in the conditions affecting our city life, it would naturally be expected that, given the usual dangers and temptations as a constant factor, and a given number of thoughtless and unprotected girls, the results would not vary much from last year. And yet, the results are not quite the same, the working out of the problem being affected by various influences and conditions outside of those referred to

An important event in relation to our work among girls was the appointment of Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford as judges of the Juvenile Court. No better appointments could have been made, both ladies being deeply interested in the work and devoting a large portion of their time, outside of their official duties, to the investigating of home conditions and the giving of practical aid to our girls.

Our new Home or Shelter was pronounced fit for occupation about the first of May last, but was not moved into until June 18th. The building was officially opened by the Mayor, as a City Institution, on October 28th, in the presence of a large number of representative citizens.

The Home has been pretty well furnished, and has accommodation for about 45 children. The matter of providing the furnishings was a financial problem, that was happily solved by voluntary contributions from the friends of the Society. The Patriotic Association and the News Telegram generously contributed substantial amounts towards this worthy object. A very successful Tag-Day, under the efficient management of Mrs. H. Riley, was held on June 19th, and resulted in adding quite a respectable sum to the Furnishings Fund. A little over \$1,900 has already been expended in furnishings and equipment.

The following statistical summary in relation to the work of the Shelter, will be of interest:

Aggregate number cared for	682
In Shelter January 1st, 1915	33
Admitted during the year	252
Discharged	260
Foster Homes	66
Returned to parents	113
Hospital (Ringworm)	2
Hospital (Chicken-pox)	12
Hospital	12
Social Service Home	2
Placed at work	28
Died	9
Ran away	3
Dunbow School	2
Industrial School	3
Police Cells	2
Convent	2
Home of Good Shepherd, Edmonton	1
Placed out to board	1
Salvation Army Home	1
Enlisted	1
Government Charges	69

Miss Parrott is still in charge of the school work at the Shelter. The average attendance for the year was about twenty. Most satisfactory results are following Miss Parrott's efficient and kindly management of this department. The total cost of maintenance for the year ending December 31st was \$14,610.42, or an average of \$1,217.53 per month, as compared with a monthly average of \$1,125.11 for last year. The expenditure for last year, ending December 31st, was \$13,476.30. The increase for the present year would therefore be \$1,134.12. This would make the cost per capita on some 650 cases dealt with about \$23.00. The expenditure for each month was as follows:

January	\$ 1,071.90
February	1,087.47
March	1,062.51
April	1,517.36
May	1,407.00

Carried forward

\$6,146.24

Brought forward	\$6,146.24
June	1,255.22
July	1,133.96
August	1,363.30
September	1,283.32
October	1,098.45
November	1,326.07
December	1,003.46

Total \$14,610.42

The average expenditure per month was \$1,217.53

The total receipts for the year were as follows:

Received from parents	\$ 620.00
Received from Government	1,761.10
Received from membership and donations	456.59

Total \$2,837.69

Last year there was received from the same sources a total of \$2,389 21.

(Signed) A. D. McDONALD,
Secretary and Agent

REPORT OF THE MATRON OF THE CHILDREN'S SHELTER, CALGARY

MILDRED L. CLINT.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

We are now fully installed in our new Shelter at Harvetta Heights, which I believe is one of the most up-to-date buildings of its kind in the country.

Children of ages varying from five to fifteen years seem to do fully better out here than they did in the City building, and seem to enjoy themselves to the full. It, of course, makes this work ever so much more interesting and satisfactory when one knows that the children placed in our charge are happy.

In fitting out the new Shelter, every thought was given toward making the place look homelike, an efficient fund even having been set aside for buying toys and appurtenances for the children's amusement, such as rocking-horses, baseball, and basketball outfits, etc., etc.

Though we made a few changes during the year in our staff, we have been very fortunate with our employees, all having the welfare of the children at heart. I make it a point to have no one employed here who is not personally fond of children.

Another thing which makes our work here a pleasure is the support given us by our Committee, each and every member of which is an indefatigable worker for the welfare of our children, and by our President, who is known in Calgary as "The Children's Friend."

In closing, I may say that we aim at giving our children as much of the family life as possible, from the bed-time story to the "big brother" idea of discipline, and find that the children soon adapt themselves to it and feel at home.

Though we do our best here, yet we are always aiming, if possible, to improve conditions, and hence welcome any suggestions or criticisms that may be made by the visiting public from time to time.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MILDRED L. CLINT,
Matron, Children's Shelter.

REPORT OF THE WOMAN PROBATION OFFICER FOR CITY OF CALGARY

EFFIE H. BAGNALL.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

I beg to submit herewith a report of the work carried out in my branch of your department, for the year ending December 31st, 1915.

Some 250 girls have come to us through different causes. A great many of these girls came only for advice and help in some way or other, as we are always only too glad to give all the help we can. Our work is always made encouraging by the co-operation we meet with in every direction. The ladies with whom we place girls at housework, help by taking a special interest in them, and acting as kind mothers and guardians to them. The Matrons of the Social Service Homes are a very great help. We always know that any girls placed there are well looked after physically and morally. The doctors and dentists help us, and in the case of an emergency in getting to the Shelter with the children, Chief Cuddy comes to our assistance with the auto, and even our President helps us out in this way. One morning lately, hearing that we had to have two children in from the Shelter to go away by an early train, he took his auto at half-past six in the morning and drove out for the children.

Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford, who were appointed Commissioners in the Juvenile Court last June, have been the greatest help to us. They do not stop at conducting cases brought before them at Court, but they are always willing to assist us in visiting girls, taking children to the doctor for medical examination, etc. At times I am so rushed that I am thankful to feel that I can call upon them at any time or any hour. With the experience now that we have had of women judges to hear girl cases, I think there should be women judges in every Juvenile Court in the world.

Every child taken to the Shelter has to undergo medical examination before being admitted. We are indebted to Dr. W. E. Spankie for his services in this respect, and when an occasion arises necessary for an operation, he operates.

Besides taking children to a general practitioner, we have them examined by an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist. Dr. A. T. Spankie has done all this work for us since he came to Calgary. As an actual demonstration of direct results beneficial to the children, and showing most conclusively the work that is to be done, I wish to show two photographs, one that of a young girl suffering disfigurement in appearance from a cross eye, and another, the result of having her eye operated upon. This doctor has done all these kind of operations for us without any remuneration whatever.

We are also indebted to Dr. Hennigar, Dentist, for coming to our aid in relieving children of pain. One day the Matron at the Shelter phoned me that a boy was suffering from toothache, and wanted to have nine teeth extracted. He came in and I took him over to the dentist, who pulled out five teeth. We thought five plenty for one day, and a few days afterwards the boy had the four remaining decayed stumps extracted.

Nearly all the cases brought to us from outside districts require operations. The past year we have had eleven girl cases, wards from outside districts, sent to us, and out of these, six underwent operations. One

girl, aged 14 years, a ward of the Children's Aid Society, Saskatoon, was sent here to the Social Service Home. The girl was almost blind, and had never been taken to a doctor to have her eyes examined in her life. She wasn't here many days, when we had her eyes fixed up, and now, with the proper kind of glasses, she is able to see and is getting on well at school. Up till then her education had been neglected. This girl was also quite deaf, and the doctor also attended to that.

We get assistance from the Departmental Stores, and the girls are taught how to spend their money to the best advantage. We are much indebted to the Manager of the Hudson's Bay Store. For example, one day last week a girl was made a ward of our Society. This girl has a good home, and a particularly good, Christian mother, but has taken up with bad companions. We just got her in time. Mrs. Jamieson and I took her to the Hudson's Bay, and interceded on her behalf with Mr. Parker, the Manager, and he promised her a position in the Store. She began her new duties next morning, and the report direct from the Manager is that she is doing exceedingly well.

The following figures will show how the girls whom we have had to help during the past year have been disposed of:

Placed at domestic work	73
Under supervision in own homes	21
Left the City	14
Attending School	16
Married	9
Cared for at Social Service Home	12
Working in stores	2

120

During the year we have sent 17 children to the Hospitals for operations.

(Signed) EFFIE H. BAGNALL,
Probation Officer.

INSPECTION

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

I beg to submit herewith Annual Report of the work under my supervision during the year ending December 31st, 1915, which I trust you will find satisfactory.

As compared with the year 1914 there would be practically the same number of cases investigated, although I regret to say that the number of cases which we found it necessary to prosecute show an increase which may not necessarily mean an increase of neglect, but rather a justification of the necessity of investigation, and a further evidence that the work of the department is becoming more widely known, and consequently additional cases being reported. This, of necessity, has increased the work of the Inspectors, as is shown in the table of mileage travelled with a comparison of 1914, as follows:

	1914.	1915.
By rail	33,118	33,140
By road	5,711	6,679

With regard to the inspection of and visiting of children placed in foster homes, I am pleased to report conditions as being satisfactory, except in a few instances where it was deemed advisable to effect changes, not for reasons of lack of care of the child, but rather in the child's interests from an educational point, by changing it from one location to another in order that it might be near to some school and be able to attend the same.

While it is my pleasure to report satisfactorily on foster homes, I consider it a duty to report that extreme vigilance is required in connection with cases of neglect of children by parents of foreign birth. While in the past every attention has been given to complaints of this nature, I can assure you that no effort will be spared in the future to bring about improved conditions. Where we find it necessary to institute proceedings against parents neglecting their children, same will be done most vigorously, which I trust, will act as an example to others, and to some degree eliminate such offences and generally improve home conditions for the child.

I wish to express my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation rendered me by the staff of the Department.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. R. BROOKE,
Inspector

REPORT OF AGENT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, EDMONTON

THOMAS S. MAGEE.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.
Sir,—

In submitting my Annual Report I wish to state that last year was a particularly busy one, as can be seen from figures given below. This table gives my work as a Probation Officer. To this, however, must be added office duties, 'phone calls, interviews, escorts to and from trains and Shelter, and Court duties, in addition to my duties as Superintendent of the Children's Shelter, which includes the entire clerical work of the Shelter.

Forgery	1	Investigations and inquiries..	2727
Neglected and dependent..	352	Abductions	4
Summonses	152	Pool Rooms and Dance Halls	39
Cruelty to Animals	9	Newsboys' offences	23
Thefts	161	False pretences	42
Malicious injury	44	Assaults	6
Incest	2	Using firearms	6
Having firearms	8	Immorality	10
Auto Bandits	5	Housebreaking	30
Rape	1	Sacrilege	4
Arson	3	Perjury	1
Unnatural offence	1		

Number of Delinquents Dealt With in 1915, 157

Offences		How Disposed of	
Theft ..	59	On probation	70
Breaking and entering	22	Fined	13
Breach of Bylaw	12	Returned to parents	27
Incorrigible	27	Birched	4
Minor delinquencies	7	Warned	19
Cruelty to animals	7	Sent to Social Service Home..	1
Willful damage	5	Sent to Home of Refuge	1
Immorality	5	Sent to country to work	10
Discharging firearms	4	Placed at Work in town	12
Truancy	2		
Assault	1		
Held as witness	5		
Forgery	1		
	157		157

In addition to this, 23 cases of adults charged with offences against children were disposed of during the year.

Total number of delinquents dealt with in 1915	157
Total number of neglected children dealt with in 1915.....	195
Total number of children dealt with in 1915	352

I think it right to bring under notice the fact that the City Council has treated the Children's Shelter very generously. Notwithstanding the many cuts in other departments owing to financial stringency, this department's estimates were passed "en bloc," and in no single instance was a requisition ever turned down.

A considerable sum was expended during the year in securing the strong rooms, so as to prevent the escape of delinquents, setting apart playgrounds, providing furniture and fixtures, and re-touching the inside of the building.

A cottage was kindly provided for the accommodation of servants, so as to give more room for the children in the home.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) THOMAS S. MAGEE,
Agent, Children's Aid Society

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, EDMONTON

MRS GEORGEA BATE.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

Permit me to submit the report of the Children's Shelter for the year ending December, 1915.

As the work of the Shelter continues about the same from year to year, there seems but little to report in the way of new features for the year 1915.

As far as numbers are concerned, there has been a slight falling off, as compared with the preceding year, and it is gratifying to note that this difference appears in the smaller number of delinquent children dealt with.

The health of the children has been generally good, and the children have attended school as regularly as possible. Sunday School has also been conducted.

During the months of June and July, lectures were given to the nursing staff by our doctor, Dr. Folinsbee, on the various diseases and ailments of children, and infant feeding, care and treatment, which were very helpful, besides keeping the nurses in touch with the more modern methods.

Thirty-eight operations of various kinds were performed at the Shelter during the year.

Number children dealt with	771
Boys	484
Girls	287
City Children	446
Boys	286
Girls	160
Government Children	325
Boys	198
Girls	127
Number of children under one year	123
Number of children admitted	393
Number of new entries	243
Number of children discharged	411
Number of delinquent children	112
Number of children released to parents or relatives	203
Placed in homes, or for work	65
Adopted	58
Number sent to Hospital	56
Sent to Sisters of the Refuge	4
Sent to Beulah Home	1
Sent to Convent	5
Sent to Ruthenian Home	2
Sent to Reformatory	2
Sent to Social Service Home	4
Ran away	5
Died	7
Number of children in Shelter at end of 1915	25
Total attendance of children	11,288

Religious Denominations

Roman Catholic	228
Presbyterian	130
Church of England	115
Lutheran	57
Methodist	56
Baptist	48
Greek Orthodox	9
Undenominational	135
Respectfully submitted.	

(Signed) GEORGEA BATE,
Matron, Children's Shelter

REPORT OF THE WOMEN PROBATION OFFICERS FOR CITY OF EDMONTON

ANNIE M. JACKSON and ETHEL TOMPKINS.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

Work among girls daily brings new problems, but the old question of how to help them to "win out" is ever with us. Many of them have become accustomed to the easy and evil way, and it is difficult to make any progress along new paths. Some of them lose all that is worth living for, almost before life is well begun.

It must be remembered that many of these girls are not really responsible, as they are thrown into contact with vice from their early childhood; on the other hand, it is wonderful to notice a girl of purity and loveliness springing up among just such conditions.

The girls who come directly under our care can be divided into delinquents and dependents. The delinquent, in many cases, is a girl whose parents through ignorance, or misunderstanding, are unable to control her. Sometimes she has no home, or worse. By the Juvenile Court's Orders, authority for the control of such girls is given into our hands.

The dependent girl comes to us out of circumstances over which she has no control and is thrown upon the kindness of the world, therefore we feel that too much love and kindness cannot be shown to her. The majority of these girls we are enabled to place in private homes, and we are grateful indeed for the kind, personal interest of those women who have given these girls kind, motherly attention, and warm, hearth-side companionship. When a girl has fitted herself for this kind of work, we then give her opportunities for entering other phases of industrial occupation.

The larger stores in the city have given us shopping privileges. The girl always accompanies us in our shopping tours, and thereby learns the value of the goods she buys. One of the things which we find it necessary to teach the girls is how to appear well, without spending everything on dress.

Institutions have been a great factor in helping us to relieve girls whose need is acute. The Sisters of the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge have been always ready to welcome Catholic girls, and have used patience and tact in dealing with them. The Social Service Home, opened a year ago, has done very efficient work with the girls whom they have kept for longer or shorter periods. The Beulah Home, Ruthenian Home, Catholic Women's League, Y.W.C.A., Salvation Army, and Welfare League, have all given assistance in their own special way.

The work about the streets has been lessened since the closing of the Shooting Galleries to women employees.

Very frequently our search for girls leads us into Hotels and Cafes, and gives us opportunities to study the current conditions of labour.

The relation of this office to the Police Department must not be overlooked. In the event of a girl under age, or just above age, being brought to the Police Court for first offences, we have always been notified, and then given the privilege to act in her case as we see fit. Many of these girls have been placed in private homes, or have been taken into one of the various institutions through the kindness of the Matron.

With the assistance of the Children's Aid Society and others deeply interested in work for girls, we opened our Girls' Cottage Club in February, 1915. This is a combination of our own home and a Club room, and is always "open house" to all girls. This gives them the idea which we wish to convey to them, that we are friends and advisors rather than officers with authority.

By seeing the girls so frequently, we have the opportunity to study the characteristics, temperament, virtues and failings of the girls, as these come out constantly in their conduct, speech and attitude.

Most of these girls come from small, dingy, unattractive homes, where little or no time or thought is given to providing them with suitable occupation or pastimes for their spare time, with the result that they are on the streets any place, and at any hour, and picking up with any sort of company.

We also make very frequent use of the Cottage for business calls, and interviews with persons out of office hours.

We provided a girl with home and board free of charge for three months, while she attended the Business College. We were also able to care for another girl for six weeks who was ill and without means. Through the Cottage, we are able to supply much that is needed from the social and amusement standpoint, in the way of individual visits, sewing classes, physical culture classes, parties, etc.

During the year, about 300 girls and women have come within the personal touch of this office. Some are made wards of the Department, and are under our constant care, others are under supervision in their own homes, while still others are assisted for shorter periods.

Work of this nature cannot be reported in figures, but the following will give an idea of how the days are filled in, and the extent of our work:

Personal calls re work for girls	76
Positions secured in domestic work	194
Positions secured in offices, stores, laundries, etc.	7
Out of office investigations, in answer to complaints, or for information	517
Personal interviews at office and Cottage	310
Trains met for, or with children and girls	49
Trips escorting girls or children to places of work or institutions	122
Trips escorting girls or children to or from Supreme Court, Police Court and Juvenile Court	73
Visits with girls to doctors and dentists	55
Calls of business re money matters, newspapers announcements, transportations, etc.	148
Meetings attended for purposes of giving addresses or interesting others in children's work	17
Shopping tours with and for girls	53
Calls at Cafes, Hotels and Shooting Galleries	47
Visits with girls while at work, or while ill	77

1745

(Signed)

ANNIE M. JACKSON,
ETHEL TOMPKINS,
Probation Officers.

REPORT OF TRAVELLING MATRON

MISS JENNIE ROBINSON.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

I beg to submit herewith Annual Report of the work carried out in my branch of your Department, for the year ending December 31st, 1915.

During the year I investigated 26 cases of incorrigible, delinquent or defective girls. In one instance the girl, although very ill, was being cruelly treated and not given medical attention by her foster mother.

I have dealt with 31 delinquent, incorrigible or embeccle girls, 10 of these were placed in institutions, some were taken either to Calgary or Edmonton and handed over to the Women Probation Officers, while the remaining 18 were directly under my own care, some being placed in homes in rural districts. Eight girls were found to be badly in need of a friend, and I have tried to help them by writing to them, as well as the ladies with whom they are living, in addition to visiting them when possible. This I would like to do more often, as the ladies invariably tell me that it makes it so much easier for them, when privileged to talk over their difficulties with a woman who understands the girl problem sufficiently to appreciate their difficulties. Many of them have never previously come in contact with this class of girl. In most cases these women are doing all in their power to help the girls to become good women, while in a few cases I have visited the homes, and on investigating the case thoroughly, it has been found necessary to remove the girl.

In visiting foster homes, I have always been received kindly, and in most cases have been delighted with the treatment the children are receiving. In many cases the children do not know that they are not in their own homes and with their own parents.

Number of delinquent, incorrigible and mentally defective girls dealt with	31
Cases investigated	26
Children brought in from rural districts and taken to Shelter.....	15
Foster Homes visited	32
Children taken to foster homes, or returned to parents	5
Children removed from homes	9
Mileage covered by rail on above work	5,672
Mileage covered by road on above work	305

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) JENNIE ROBINSON,
Travelling Matron.

REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER OF LETHBRIDGE

WILLIAM LAMB

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

The following is a brief summary of matters relating to the Children's Shelter, Lethbridge, Alberta, for the year 1915:

Staff

Probation Officer—William Lamb.
Matron of Shelter—Miss G. A. Dainty.
Four maids.

Financial Report

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
January	\$ 293.40	January	\$ 249.99
February	349.84	February	90.75
March	283.00	March	360.85
April	327.22	April	228.90
May	375.13	May	254.35
June	338.51	June	261.80
July	353.39	July	247.75
August	409.40	August	198.60
September	253.69	September . . .	176.65
October	350.33	October	149.25
November	237.54	November	104.75
December	249.60	December	207.25
	<u>\$3,821.05</u>		<u>\$2,530.89</u>
Expenditure			\$3,821.05
Income			2,520.89
City of Lethbridges expenses			\$1,290.16

Children Admitted to and Discharged From the Home

Children in Shelter at end of 1914	11
Number children admitted during 1st quarter	13
Number children admitted during 2nd quarter	12
Number children admitted during 3rd quarter	6
Number children admitted during 4th quarter	1
	<u>43</u>

Cases Dealt With by Juvenile Court Commissioners

Number of children brought before Juvenile Court Commissioners, Rev. Canon McMillan and J. D. Higenbotham, Esq :

Theft	3
Out after curfew	2
Assault	2
Dependent	4
Using profane language ..	2
Neglected children	3
Destroying property	17

Cases Dealt With Out of Court

The Probation Officer adjusted out of Court 138 cases, such as destroying property, breaking windows, throwing stones and quarrelling amongst themselves.

Total of Children Dealt With During Year

Total number of children	43
Children discharged during first quarter	11
Children discharged during second quarter	9
Children discharged during third quarter	9
Children discharged during fourth quarter	11
Total number of children discharged	40
Number of children in Shelter at end of December, 1915.....	3

(Signed) WILLIAM LAMB,
Probation Officer.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, LETHBRIDGE

GRACE DAINTY.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

I beg to submit herewith a report of the work which has been done in the Lethbridge Shelter during the year 1915.

With regard to improvements in the Shelter during the past year, I may say that we rearranged the Shelter so that we could have a play-room for the small children. It is a nice bright room, furnished with low tables, chairs and benches, and several drawers for treasures. Through the kindness of Mrs. L. M. Johnston and several of her friends, the room was well supplied with story books, dolls and good toys.

The littles ones have been exceptionally bright and healthy, no deaths and no sickness worth mentioning. They lived out of doors and their skin got quite brown; this seemed to make them quite fascinating, because in several instances the few hairs they had were white. The babies lay in clothes baskets until they became strong enough to tip the basket over and roll out, then they were transferred to beds. A pen was added this year to prevent the wee things from creeping too far away.

A small flower garden was made during the year, and gave a great deal of pleasure to the children during the summer months. They would go to it first thing in the morning, to see if any new flowers were out, and they did not pick the flowers unless they were asked to do so. This may seem strange, but it is quite interesting to observe how quickly these children begin to feel a responsibility in the home.

The girls did fairly well. Two were married to respectable young men, and one of these, who had a baby in the Shelter, took the baby to her new home, and the arrangement seems quite satisfactory. One girl, sixteen years old, is working steadily and earning twenty dollars a month. She could not read nor write when she came to us, and had never been to school, but during the eight months in domestic service, she has learned to read, make her own clothes, make clothes for her small brother and sister, insured her life, and made a deposit in the savings bank.

We contrived to turn a pantry into a cell. The cell in the basement seems rather severe for small offenders. In many cases the child does not really understand that he is doing wrong, when he steals or uses profane language; he never heard anything else in his home. For that reason, kindness and interest in his welfare makes a lasting impression on him. However, we trust we may not find the cell necessary.

During the early part of the year we were short of clothing. To the casual observer it did not appear, but to those of us in the Home who had to keep the garments neat and clean, it was a delirium. However, it was our own fault; we did not realize so many people were ready to help the children. We made an appeal to the Churches, and the response was most liberal, in some instances supplying the materials and the Girls' Auxiliary doing the sewing. The following have helped to make conditions better, and more pleasing for the children:

The Children's Aid: Mrs. G. M. Robinson, Mrs. L. M. Johnston, Mrs. Stoffer, Mr. Arthur Higenbotham.

Church Auxiliaries: St. Paul's Roman Catholic; St. Cyprian's Anglican; St. Mary's; Knox Presbyterian; St. Andrew's Presbyterian.

The number of children dealt with during the year 43

Disposed of as follows:

Returned to parents or guardians	14
Sent to Foster Homes	20
Placed in domestic service	2
Placed at farm work	3
Sent to Home of Refuge	1
In Shelter	3
Total	43

Ages					
1 year and under	7	Dane	1		
2 years and under	3	Russian	4		
3 " " "	3	American	5		
4 " " "	0	German	3		
5 " " "	2	Italian	1		
6 " " "	1	Scotch	6		
7 " " "	4	Austrian	5		
8 " " "	4	Slavish	1		
9 " " "	4	French	1		
10 " " "	0	Total	43		
11 " " "	4	Religions			
12 " " "	1	Roman Catholic	17		
13 " " "	0	Presbyterian	3		
14 " " "	5	Salvation Army	3		
15 " " "	2	Protestant	10		
16 " " "	3	Methodist	2		
Total	43	Evangelical	1		
Nationalities				Lutheran	2
English	11	Anglican	4		
Iceland	1	Total	43		

(Signed) GRACE DAINTY,
Matron, Children's Shelter.

REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER, MEDICINIE HAT

LESLIE V. B. MAIS.

The Superintendent of
Dependent and Delinquent Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir,—

The work during the past year has been fully as heavy as the year before, but there were fewer Juvenile Courts held, the cases being handled in other ways, such as private talks with the parents and children in their homes, thereby giving the parents—in some cases—information about their children's ways, about which they were unaware. They were then able to keep watch on the children and prevent them getting into further trouble.

There were two serious charges against adults in regard to young girls, for which one man was sent down for a term. The other man was acquitted.

Several girls were removed from their homes owing to the home surroundings being immoral.

Some were taken away owing to ill-treatment and others for whom homes were found had been abandoned by their parents. It seems to me that if some of these parents received the penalty that the law allows for such offences, it would be a salutary lesson to others who are not looking after their children in the way they should. Too many young children, and especially young girls, are allowed out on the streets late at night, with no supervision.

There has been a marked falling off in the number of truancies during the past year, only twenty, as compared with forty-one the previous year and forty-five the year before that.

The need for a special home for mentally deficient children is becoming more pressing, as those that we have here are growing up and developing along lines that will lead to serious trouble in the near future.

We are finding that it is getting harder and harder each year to handle the children passing through our hands in the temporary private homes, and feel that the completion of the Shelter is greatly to be desired. We were in two cases bound to confine a girl of 16 and a boy of the same age in the police cells, as there was no other safe place in which to confine them.

Another matter that requires attention is the way some children are sent out into the country to work on farms, where they get no schooling, and consequently fail to get the advantages of learning our language and getting acquainted with our ways, with the result that they have not the chance of becoming the good Canadian citizen that we desire, and for which our schools are provided. So long as the children are earning their board, and perhaps a few dollars, the parents do not seem to care, and The Truancy Act does not appear to cover these cases as it should.

I would like here to express appreciation of the help given continually by our Secretary, Mrs. McLaren, who has devoted so much of her time and care to the work among the children, and especially the girls.

I also wish to thank the doctors who so kindly gave their services to wards of the Society.

Inspector Shoebottom, of the Royal North-West Mounted Police, has taken a great interest in the children's cases, and has gone to a great deal of trouble investigating any case that I have reported to him, as well as giving me assistance in other cases.

The following statistics will give some idea of the work which has been accomplished in Medicine Hat during the past year.

Interviews and visits	1215
Children placed out in homes	11
Meetings attended	13
Applications for children	28
Children sent to Shelters	8
Notices of Investigation served	17
Orders of Delivery issued	20
Investigated cases reported	60
Juvenile Courts held	21
Charges against parents	35
Convictions secured	30
Charges against Juveniles	43
Truancies	20
Letters received	300

(Signed) LESLIE V. B. MAIS,
Probation Officer.

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JAN 7 1983

